

The final part of the book is titled 'Bioethics in practice'. This is perhaps a little misleading as, to its credit, a great deal of the rest of the book is about bioethics in practice. However, few readers are likely to be confused. This part of the book looks at risk (including risk assessment, risk management and risk communication), the Precautionary Principle (including a useful section on international differences in interpreting the Precautionary Principle – PP to Mepham), trust, politics (which I rather wish I had read many years ago!), the public understanding of science and a final chapter that looks at the ethical issues that confront scientists and others engaged in the practice of science.

The book is accompanied by regular student updates on Oxford University Press's website and there is a Password-protected section for lecturers who adopt the book. Even without these features, £21.99 seems good value for a book of this length and quality.

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Bovine Surgery and Lameness, 2nd Edition

AD Weaver, G St Jean and A Steiner (2005). Published by Blackwell Publishing Ltd, Oxford OX4 2DQ, UK. 269 pp Paperback (ISBN 1 4051 2382 6). Price £32.50.

This book is a welcome update in the field of bovine surgery and lameness and provides a practical and pragmatic approach to the subject area. On the back cover, apart from welcoming the two new authors, it states: "Special attention is given to issues relating to perioperative analgesia and animal welfare, food safety, and drug dosages". It seemed reasonable, therefore, to expect some welfare directed comment and concern.

The layout is in seven chapters, each concentrating on a specific area and each chapter is easily described and supported with clear diagrams and tables helping the clinician make his/her decision on materials, approach and supportive treatments and to realise the potential problems each technique may bring to bear.

In the preface to the 1985 edition Weaver writes: "Animal welfare considerations are becoming increasingly important in many countries... Responsibility rests with the veterinarian". In the preface to the second edition: "More emphasis is placed on animal welfare, for example, in suggestions for perioperative analgesia and anti-inflammatory medication... each veterinarian has his or her own preferences". Thus the overall aim has been to provide a handy reference book and a valuable and practical tool in daily practice.

The last part has been achieved and all cattle practices and mixed practices would benefit from having this book in their library. It will see frequent use. That alone might improve welfare through improved technique, better asepsis and sterility and sensible use of prophylactic antimicrobials as well as good anaesthetic and analgesic routines.

The introductory chapter and the two chapters on abdominal surgery and lameness occupy most of the print, comprising 178 out of 258 pages of text. A quick search on welfare and pain and behaviour in the index reveals one solitary mention for welfare on page 54. In the text this is mentioned in passing. However, chapter one deals extensively with assessment, premedication, sedation, anaesthesia and other drug therapies; the impact of which must be to lift the standard of bovine surgery and thereby enhance welfare. This theme is continued through until the final chapter on lameness.

Lameness is arguably the major welfare problem that faces the livestock industry from broiler chickens through to sheep production. The cattle industry recognises this problem and it is a depressing and unpalatable fact that the prevalence of lameness in dairy cattle remains at levels approaching 20%. This means that there has actually been an increase in the incidence of lameness over the last 25 years. It is telling that the chapter is broken down into subheadings of Incidence, Economic Importance and Terminology to introduce the subject but no separate consideration is made of the welfare implications or the effects of lameness. The check-lists for herd problems are a useful aide-memoire and most should already be included in the dairy veterinary herd health plan for the farm.

Does the fact that there is no specific consideration of welfare detract from this book? No, the scope of the book is more limited to the subject matter of the title and is true to its purpose. It will enhance welfare by improving understanding and technique rather than by facing the problems head-on.

The appendices round this useful volume off by providing references for further information along with useful contacts for instruments, supplies and professional bodies/associations. The authors have achieved their aims for this book but were perhaps overambitious in including the words "Special attention is given to issues relating to... animal welfare" on the jacket.

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Responsible Marine Aquaculture

Edited by RR Stickney and JP McVey (2002). Published by CABI Publishing, Wallingford, Oxon, Oxford OX10 8DE, UK. 391 pp Hardback (ISBN 0 85199 604 3). Price £65.00.

This is a very timely and thoughtful book. It addresses most of the areas of genuine or pressure-group manufactured concern with regard to Marine Aquaculture which are currently aired in the technical or general media. Since aquaculture is the world's fastest growing food production sector, this is going to make it required reading across a very wide spectrum of interests. The final chapter, by Tiersch and Hargreaves, on sensible responses to environmental advocacy, should give food for thought to many media editors, not least those of previously highly respected peer-reviewed journals which have been less than exacting